



**C** HICAGO  
**A** LLIANCE  
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**S** EXUAL  
**E** XPLOITATION

**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**



## **OUR VISION**

CAASE envisions a community free from all forms of sexual exploitation, including sexual assault and the commercial sex trade.

## **OUR MISSION**

CAASE addresses the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual exploitation. Our work includes prevention, policy reform, community engagement, and legal services.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for making 2010 another exciting and successful year for the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE). Together, we were able to substantially grow our organization's reach, inspiring more people to take action against sexual exploitation and harm. Your support has helped CAASE continue to emerge as both a local and national leader in responding to sex trafficking, prostitution and sexual assault. Our focus on holding perpetrators accountable and addressing the root causes of these issues has made us a leader in this field and guided us toward many successes.

Your gifts helped CAASE expand our educational programming for young men, successfully advocate for a new law to protect prostituted youth, and grow our legal services to help survivors of sexual assault seek justice.

I am inspired and humbled by the generosity of our donors. From survivors to students, parents and artists, attorneys and neighbors—you have all shown us that you care deeply about changing our community's response to sexual exploitation. There is much more work to be done, and we are honored to have you as part of our alliance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Rachel Durchslag

Executive Director and Founder

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation



## Board Profile: Lilliana Champions Our Innovative Solutions

*Lilliana DeSantiago Cardenas is passionate about CAASE's straightforward approach to ending sexual harm. She chose to serve as co-chair of the fundraising committee on CAASE's board of directors because she believes our mission is unique. As a champion for our cause, she's been effective in recruiting support from her friends, family and peers.*

*"CAASE takes an innovative approach, which is to go directly to the root cause. Our society still has a long way to go to hold perpetrators accountable. CAASE stands up and says 'we should not tolerate these behaviors.'"*

*Lilliana is a social worker and has served as an advocate for survivors of abuse. She believes that CAASE's legal services are an integral component to fighting exploitation and an option that not many agencies can offer.*

*"Once you step foot inside a courtroom, there's so much blaming of the victim. People are afraid to come forward. For all these reasons, it's so important for victims to have the support of attorneys who truly understand the issues."*

*Lilliana supports CAASE because of our holistic approach. "As a donor, it's powerful knowing that your money is going toward efforts to really fix a problem in society, not just to put a Band-Aid on it."*



## LEGAL SERVICES

### *SUZANNE COMES FORWARD, SEEKS JUSTICE*

There was a time when Suzanne Alton felt no one understood what she was going through. After an acquaintance sexually assaulted Suzanne, she faced barriers to justice and healing at every turn. “When I was sexually assaulted, I was completely silenced. When I went home, I wasn’t able to talk to my family. A lot of my friends didn’t understand or know how to deal with me.”

When she sought help from CAASE’s legal program, things started changing for the better.

“CAASE offers a great outlet for people who have been rejected by our criminal justice system and are still looking for some semblance of closure after being attacked,” Suzanne said. “They provide help to people who have nowhere else to turn.”

With the help of CAASE’s attorney, Suzanne obtained a civil no-contact order against her attacker. The victory also helped her discover her voice as an advocate. “As a survivor, it was really important to me to give back. For other people who were sexually assaulted, it’s ok to come forward. It’s ok to say ‘someone raped me.’ CAASE gave me an outlet to talk about my experience.”

### *Standing with Survivors of Rape, Abuse and Trafficking*

From the rape kit backlog to law enforcement’s broken response to sexual assault, survivors of rape are often re-victimized by a legal system that poses many barriers to justice. CAASE’s legal services help survivors navigate the criminal justice system and explore their options in civil court.

In 2010, CAASE’s legal program consulted with 51 survivors of sexual harm or their families. We were able to provide extensive legal services and representation to 23 of these survivors at a low- or no-cost basis.

With a deep understanding of the issues and the options available for survivors of sexual harm, CAASE’s legal team is both compassionate and effective. One woman turned to CAASE for help after she was trafficked by

her abusive husband. Another woman, who was disabled, sought our help to obtain a protective order against her abuser.

### *Raising Awareness about Legal Rights*

CAASE also conducted several trainings for local rape crisis center volunteers and survivors of prostitution to share information about legal rights and options for victims of sexual exploitation in Illinois.

*“CAASE is truly passionate about ending sexual assault, and your attorneys understand what victims are going through. Survivors have such a positive reaction when they hear that CAASE can offer free legal representation. We feel so comfortable sending survivors to work with you.”*

*-Sarah Layden, Director of Advocacy Services, Rape Victim Advocates*



## ADVOCACY AND REFORM

### GENESIS RAISES THE VOICES OF THE UNHEARD

Genesis Ramirez was recruited into the sex trade at the age of 15. Now a survivor and a peer educator with the Dreamcatcher Foundation, Genesis is determined to change how society treats sexually exploited teenagers. In 2010, she traveled with the End Demand Illinois campaign to lobby in support of the Illinois Safe Children Act. “So many of the girls are not empowered enough to go out and speak,” Genesis said. “I raise the voice of the unheard when I speak.”

In a whirlwind of a day, Genesis spoke with dozens of legislators about her life—the violence she endured, the pimp who controlled her and kept all her money, and her journey out of the sex trade. She was victorious, changing the minds of several leaders to gain their support.

“I got to bring the issue out to important people who have the power to do something about it,” Genesis said.

### *End Demand Illinois Campaign Thrives in its First Year*

CAASE created the End Demand Illinois advocacy campaign to shift law enforcement’s attention toward sex traffickers and people who buy sex, while creating a network of supportive social services for survivors of the sex trade.

### *Victory Against Traffickers: Passing the Illinois Safe Children Act*

Thousands of children and teens are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Illinois every year. Although it was unthinkable, laws in Illinois allowed trafficked children and teenagers to be charged with prostitution-related crimes. Something had to change.

In August of 2010, our End Demand Illinois campaign had its first legislative victory when we partnered with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office to help pass the Illinois Safe Children

Act. The most progressive of its kind in the United States, the law protects young people from being prosecuted for prostitution and creates more accountability for traffickers and people who buy sex.

### *Creating Resources for Survivors of Sexual Assault*

Rape crisis centers in Cook County sought CAASE’s leadership again this year to advocate for much-needed funding. For the second year in a row, CAASE lobbied successfully for \$275,000 to support rape crisis services.

*“Without the Cook County funding this year, rape crisis centers would have been forced to make devastating cuts to services to victims. CAASE’s leadership was essential to securing this funding.”*

*-Polly Poskin, Executive Director,  
Illinois Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault*



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### *CALEB EMPOWERS YOUNG MEN TO END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION*

Tackling a subject like sex trafficking with a group of high school students takes a special talent. With patience, a lot of energy and expertise, CAASE's Education and Outreach Associate Caleb Probst has helped hundreds of young men talk about issues of sexual exploitation. "Reading the students' written responses after they've gone through the course is the most rewarding part," Caleb said. "It's an opportunity to see how many of them are getting it."

Caleb also teaches and trains others to use CAASE's curriculum for high-school-age boys. He excels at motivating young men to participate in conversations with their peers about these difficult topics. The multi-session course emphasizes how the sex trade can be harmful to both prostituted people and purchasers. Young men learn to critique the messages they receive from the media regarding masculinity and sex-trade patronage.

"One student wrote that he and his classmates don't get accurate information from other places," Caleb said. "No one else is talking to them about sexual exploitation in school, or the images they see in the media of prostitution being glamorized or blaming the victim. The student thanked me for being there."

### *Artists, Faith Communities, and College Students Raise Awareness*

CAASE has continued our diverse outreach and educational efforts. In 2010, we recruited two local playwrights to write the play *Private Lies* about men who purchase sex. More than 500 people came to see the production.

Our staff and volunteers conducted more than 40 presentations in the community to raise awareness about sexual exploitation and harm.

Launching a toolkit for college students, CAASE created innovative ways to involve college students in our work. Campuses will soon have CAASE chapters to help spread the word about ending sexual harm.

Communities of faith can now access even more resources through the CAASE website, and our outreach efforts have expanded to help churches and synagogues take action against sexual exploitation.

### *Curriculum Reaches Young Men*

Launched in 2010, CAASE's Empowering Men to End Sexual Exploitation curriculum reached more than 120 students, including young men in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center as well as Urban Prep Academy and Noble Street College Prep.

The curriculum has attracted national attention, and CAASE is now a go-to organization for those who want to do prevention work among young men.



### *Donor Profile: Kevin Gives Back, Inspires Family and Friends*

*Kevin Lambert had just moved to Chicago and was searching for worthy causes to support. After chatting with Executive Director Rachel Durchslag, Kevin was inspired to help. He started by donating his time as a professional writer and editor. Soon, he was encouraging his family and friends to make gifts to CAASE.*

*“They were all so eager to help, and curious too. Sexual exploitation is a big problem, and it doesn’t get enough attention,” he said. Last year, Kevin and his wife encouraged their wedding guests to give to CAASE in lieu of gifts. Giving back is part of Kevin’s inheritance from his family. “My parents raised us with an emphasis of giving of yourself, of whatever talents you have to better your environment.”*

*Kevin is particularly inspired by CAASE’s community-engagement initiatives. “Educating young men before they take part in the sex trade is a brilliant move. Preventative measures aren’t emphasized enough in many social problems. CAASE’s curriculum is a very original, proactive and important part of ending this problem.”*



### *Partner Profile: Nate Chung Uses Art to Create Change*

*An artist with a vision for engaging the public, Nate Chung has been working on an innovative plan to engage the community with our End Demand Illinois campaign. “It was great to have the opportunity to collaborate with CAASE,” he said. “It’s about celebrating humanity and mobilizing people.”*

*End Demand Illinois seeks to challenge myths about prostitution and to empower individuals to end the exploitation of the sex trade. Nate helped to build a mobile art piece that shows videos of survivors, advocates and members of the community talking about the issues of sex trafficking and prostitution. “We need to support this campaign because it supports a fundamental value we should all have—to respect the humanity of other people.”*

*“Being involved with CAASE and standing for justice in small and big ways, I feel like it’s part of being human,” Nate said. “I feel like I’ve been given much, from my parents and my community, and people around me. I feel compelled to share the love I was given.”*

## OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

WHERE DONATIONS GO

82%  
PROGRAMS

14%  
OPERATIONS

4%  
FUNDRAISING

FUNDRAISING	\$12,045
OPERATIONS	\$40,706
PROGRAMS	\$231,989
	<b>\$284,740</b>

IN 2010:

**293** | **\$39,391**

people gave to CAASE  
for the first time.

was received from  
first-time donors.

### PROGRAMMATIC BREAKDOWN

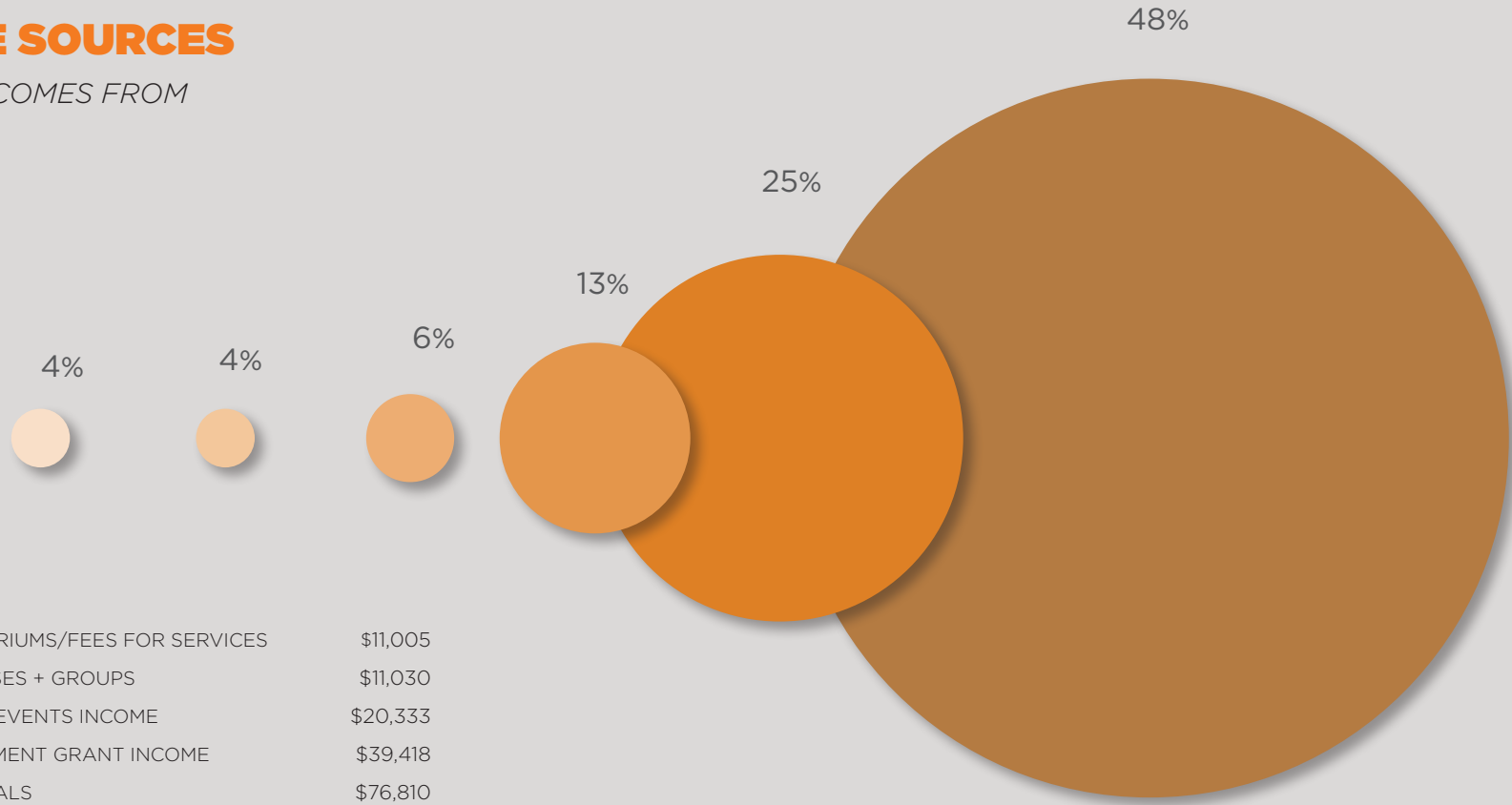
61%  
POLICY

22%  
LEGAL

17%  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

# REVENUE SOURCES

WHERE HELP COMES FROM



● HONORARIUMS/FEES FOR SERVICES	\$11,005
● BUSINESSES + GROUPS	\$11,030
● SPECIAL EVENTS INCOME	\$20,333
● GOVERNMENT GRANT INCOME	\$39,418
● INDIVIDUALS	\$76,810
● FOUNDATIONS + CORPORATIONS	\$154,858
	<b>\$313,454</b>

To receive a copy of the audited financial statements, please contact CAASE at 773-244-2230.

## DONORS

### \$10,000 +

Chicago Foundation for Women  
Stephen and Ruth Durchslag  
Lakshmi Foundation  
NoVo Foundation  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
Violence Against Women Office

### \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation  
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Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation  
Beatrice C. Mayer  
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### \$1,000 TO \$4,999

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Layout and Typesetting by Sripriya Prasad

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As a donor, it's powerful knowing that your money is going toward efforts to really fix a problem in society. I feel compelled to share the love CAASE's leadership was essential to the organization for those who want to do prevention work among young men. Changing the public mind empowered again this year to engage with the County Board. CAASE's leadership again this year to engage with the County Board. CAASE's leadership again this year to engage with the County Board.



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